

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Continuation of:)
)
PCT/EP00/07218) Group Art Unit: Not assigned
)
Inventor: Sergio BELLI et al.) Examiner: Not assigned
)
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned)
)
Filed: February 8, 2002)
)
For: PROCESS FOR THE
PRODUCTION OF A CABLE AND
DEVICE FOR PERFORMING THIS
PROCESS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, after the title, insert the following new headings and subheading and new paragraph as follows:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of international application number
PCT/EP00/07218, filed July 27, 2000, the content of which is incorporated herein by

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FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

reference, and claims the priority of European Patent Application No. 99115701.7, filed August 9, 1999, and the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/157,021, filed October 1, 1999, the content of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention--.

Page 1, before line 21, add the following new subheading:

--Description of the Related Art--.

Page 7, before line 10, add the following new section heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 10, before line 9, add the following new section heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 10, before line 24, add the following new heading:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel now pending claims 1-19 without prejudice or disclaimer and substitute new claims 20-34 therefor as follows:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

20. (New) A process for the production of a cable having at least one covering layer consisting of a composition comprising at least one polymeric material and a mineral filler in a quantity greater than 30% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, said cable being produced by using an extruder comprising a cylindrical casing, at least one extrusion screw of preset pitch positioned within said casing and having an axis of rotation parallel to the axis of said cylinder, a charging

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HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

- INNEGAN
ENDERSON
ARABOW
ARRETT &
JUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
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Fax 202.408.4400
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24. (New) A process according to Claim 20, wherein said composition has a Melt Flow Index lower than 15 g/10 min (measured as per the standard ASTM 1238, with a capillary of diameter 2 mm, using a weight of 21 kg and heating the composition to a temperature of 240°C).

at least one extruder comprising an extrusion screw and an extrusion head inside of which is contained a die for the purpose of fitting said covering layer around at least one conducting element of said cable;

at least one device for unwinding said conducting element; and

at least one device for winding said cable, wherein the filtration section of said extruder has a filter support plate defining a plurality of sectors within which the filtered composition flows.

33. (New) An apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising one or more units for cooling said cable.

34. (New) An apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising one or more units for crosslinking before said one or more cooling units.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Add a new page 33 after the claims, adding the following ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE. A new separate page 33 is enclosed.

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process for producing cables, in particular cables for the distribution of electrical energy or cables for telecommunications, more particularly, cables having at least one covering layer having a composition of high viscosity. Cables with at least one covering layer are made from a polymeric composition having a mineral filler capable of imparting one or more specific properties to the cables. A production process includes conveying at least one conducting element inside of an extruder; feeding the polymeric material, optionally premixed with other components of the composition, into the extruder; filtering the material transferred and plasticized by the

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FARABOW
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screw of the extruder; and depositing the material onto the at least one conducting element, the filtration operation being performed with a filtration efficiency greater than 0.8, preferably greater than 0.9.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to conform them to U.S. practice. Claims 20-34 are pending in this application. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.


The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 8, 2002

By: 
Ernest F. Chapman
Reg. No. 25,961

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

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DUNNER LLP

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